

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are requested. Support for the amended claims is found, for example, from figure 1, from lines 1-2 of paragraph [0014] and the last two lines of paragraph [0015] of the specification, and from part a) of claim 1. Lines 1-2 of paragraph [0014] mention a flatbed scanner in relation to a scan bar, and the last two lines of paragraph [0015] mention that the image placement area is sometimes referred to as the scanning bed. A scan bar movable along a subscan axis, as recited in part a) of claim 1 requires the scan bar to be a flatbed-scanner scan bar. Figure 1 likewise requires the scan bar to be a flatbed-scanner scan bar.

The examiner's objection to claims 2, 7, and 33 because of informalities is respectfully traversed. Applicants have amended such claims as suggested by the examiner.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1-33 as being "anticipated", under 35 USC 102, is respectfully traversed. The examiner has rejected these claims as being unpatentable over Swartz (US 4,835,374. Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, claims 12-16 depend from claim 11, claims 18-21 depend from claim 17, claims 23-27 depend from claim 22, claims 29-30 depend from claim 28, and claims 32-33 depend from claim 31.

Claim 1 requires a flatbed-scanner scan bar 12 movable along a subscan axis 20, requires first and second scan-bar homing references 14 and 16 spaced apart along the subscan axis 20, and requires an image placement area 18 disposed between the first and second scan-bar homing references 14 and 16. Paragraph [0015] of the specification states, "It is noted that the image placement area 18 is defined as an area of the scanner 10 which is adapted to have an image placed thereon by a user for scanning by the scan bar 12. The image placement area 18 is sometimes referred to as the scanning bed." Paragraph [0019] of the specification notes that in one example, "the image is disposed on a sheet of paper ..."

Swartz discloses a hand-held scanning head 10 useful as a bar code reader (see column 10, lines 34-50) and having an "invisible" laser light source 42 (see column 11, lines 58-66) and a visible aiming light source 130 (see column 17, lines 6-24). The "invisible" laser light source

42 is scanned by an oscillating scanning mirror 66 across a bar code symbol 100 (see column 14, lines 6-33) provided the user has correctly aimed the bar code reader (see column 2, lines 22-37). The "invisible" light reflected from the bar code symbol 100 is received by oscillating mirror 76 and directed to a photosensor 80 for use in reading the bar code symbol (see column 15, lines 11-23). The visible aiming light source 130 is used via cold mirror 78 and oscillating mirror 76 to project a visible light beam on the bar code label, with the visible light beam appearing as a light spot or light spot region 150 on the bar code label which helps the user to aim the bar code reader (see figures 10 and 11, column 17, line 25 to column 18, line 22, and column 20, lines 27-28). In an alternate embodiment, two visible aiming light sources 130b and 130c are used to project two visible light beams appearing as two light spots or light spot regions 152 and 154 on the bar code label (see figures 12 and 11 and column 18, lines 23-42).

Swartz does not teach, suggest or describe a scan bar, a scan bar movable along a subscan axis, a flatbed-scanner scan bar, or a flatbed-scanner scan bar movable along a subscan axis, all required by claim 1. Swartz discloses a bar-code-reader scanning mirror 66 which oscillates (rotates back and forth) about a rotational axis to linearly scan the bar code label 100 (see "invisible" laser spots 106a and 106b in figure 9 which denote the instantaneous end positions of the linear scan). Swartz does not teach, suggest or describe a scanner having first and/or second scan-bar homing references because, as previously mentioned, Swartz does not teach, suggest or describe a scan bar. Swartz does not teach, suggest or describe an image placement area because Swartz does not teach, suggest or describe an area (sometimes referred to as a scanning bed) of his scanner (bar code reader) which is adapted to have an image (such as an image on a piece of paper) placed thereon by a user for scanning by a scan bar (or by anything else).

The visible light spots 152 and 154 of Swartz which are projected onto the bar code label by the visible aiming light sources 130b and 130c do not serve as a homing and calibration reference as required by claim 2, are not different from one another as required by claim 6, are not positioned on the scanner as required by claim 7, do not function as a position switch as required by claim 8, and do not function as an optical break sensor as required by claim 9.

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Amendment

Claims 10, 11, 17, 22, 28 and 31 have the same flatbed-scanner scan bar and first and scan scan-bar homing reference claim limitations as claim 1, and applicants previous remarks concerning the patentability of these claim limitations of claim 1 are herein incorporated by reference.

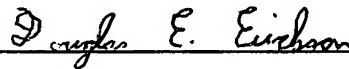
Claims 11, 17, and 22 require performing a prescan of an image. Swartz is a bar code reader and does not teach, suggest or describe performing a prescan.

Claims 12, 18, and 23 require establishing a position reference each time before moving from each of the homing references. The bar code reader of Swartz does not pause between each of its repeated scans of the bar code label to make sure that the user has correctly aimed (established a position reference) for the bar code reader.

The visible light spots 152 and 154 of Swartz which are projected onto the bar code label by the visible aiming light sources 130b and 130c do not serve as a sensor-element calibration reference as required by claims 13-14, 19-20, 24-26, 29-30, and 32-33.

Inasmuch as each of the rejections and objections has been answered by the amended claims and above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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